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Information

Fiscal Policy and Planning Committee

Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation Project Update

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides an update on the Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation Project.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Darren Addington, Chief Information Officer, Enterprise Technology Services Section

Strategic Plan Goal

II. Program Quality and Accountability

- a) Develop and maintain rigorous, meaningful, and relevant standards that drive program quality and effectiveness for the preparation of the education workforce and are responsive to the needs of California's diverse student population.

December 2015

Strengthening and Streamlining Accreditation Project Update

Introduction

This agenda item provides an update on expenditures and project timelines for the Strengthening and Streamlining the Accreditation System project (Accreditation Project).

Background

The Accreditation Project's main goal is to revise the present accreditation system to be a more streamlined, coherent system of educator preparation and program quality oversight purposefully focused on the transparent demonstration of quality outcomes. The result of this work is intended to be a seamless system of high quality educator preparation and accountability. For more details on the Accreditation project please see [item 6A](#) from the August 2015 Commission meeting.

In August and October of 2015 the Commission approved some costs for this project and delegated authority to the Executive Director (marked approved in the table below) to sign contracts or purchase orders for hardware and software in amounts over \$150,000 for the Accreditation Project. To provide transparency over project expenditures, the following information is provided concerning project costs:

| Accreditation Project Components and Costs that Exceed \$150,000 | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------|
| Project Components | Hardware Costs | Software Costs | Contractor Costs | Total Approved Costs |
| Creating a Data Warehouse and Visualizations, using Business Intelligence (BI) software (Contractor Cost is already approved) | \$340,000 Approved, to be purchased in December 2015 | \$162,500 Approved, Purchased in July 2015 | \$400,000 Approved, Contract awarded on 10/2015 for \$395,390 | \$902,500 |
| CASE and CTC Online enhancements to improve user friendliness, security and data quality. | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,500,000 Approved, RFO Released not to exceed \$1,000,000 | \$1,500,000 |
| Security enhancement – Network System Security (This is needed for the above items) | \$200,000 Approved, Purchased in October 2015 for \$196,993 | \$0 | \$0 | \$200,000 |

| Accreditation Project Components and Costs that Exceed \$150,000 | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Project Components | Hardware Costs | Software Costs | Contractor Costs | Total Approved Costs |
| Backup recovery system for all of the Commission's critical applications to be hosted by CalTech (This is needed for the top two above items) | \$600,000 Approved, to be purchased in January 2016 | \$275,000 Approved, \$199,985 purchased so far the rest to be purchased in January 2016 | \$0 | \$875,000 |
| Total Cost of Approved Items Over \$150,000 | | | | \$3,477,500 |

Current Status

The project has four major components, with tasks moving on different timelines. Since this is a major project for the state, oversight of the project is provided by CalTech. CalTech has released [their first report](#) on the Accreditation project and all parts of the project are green, which means the scope, schedule and costs of the project are currently in agreement with the approved Feasibility Study Report (FSR) that the Commission staff prepared.

Creating a Data Warehouse and Visualizations: Using data visualization tools within the Business Integration platform, users can more effectively ask and answer important questions about the Commission's accreditation data. The first year of this work will be completed using Estrada Consulting, the contractor recently awarded the contract to help the Commission create the data warehouse and the data visualizations. This portion of the project is on time and on budget.

CASE and CTC Online Enhancements: In addition to developing the functionality listed above, the Accreditation Project also includes making some enhancements to CTC's existing credentialing systems (CASE and CTC Online) to link these systems to the data warehouse, as needed and improve user friendliness, data quality and system security. This will ensure more accurate data for future data visualizations. These enhancements will also improve the public's access to educator credential information by providing enhanced search capabilities, and improved employment data to help aid the public in finding a specific educator.

A Request for Offer (RFO) for this work was released on September 22, 2015, with an anticipated award by the beginning the first week of December 2015. The RFO was released earlier than anticipated; this portion of the project will be completed on time and on budget.

Commission Website Revision: The Commission's website will be updated with the latest state templates to accommodate the data dashboard system and improve user friendliness. The plan in the approved FSR is for the Commission to migrate to the Web service being offered by

CalTech. However, it has been determined that some of the functionality that the Commission needs is not available in CalTech's offering, such as being able to edit the HTML coding for our website, so the Commission staff is evaluating software products for the website that will meet all of the needs of the Commission. Once the software is chosen and purchased, staff will develop an RFO for a contractor, as planned in the FSR, to help the Commission in accomplishing this part of the project. This change is not expected to impact the overall project timeline or budget.

Backup recovery system: The backup recovery system for all of the Commission's critical applications will be hosted by CalTech. All service requests for the backup recovery system have been submitted to Caltech, for the Commission to use CalTech's tenant managed service offering, to host the Commission's critical applications in case of a disaster. The Commission is currently doing the final analysis for buying the necessary backup equipment. This portion of the project is on time and on budget.